REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action dated December 24, 2003. Claim 1-7 are pending in the application. Applicant has amended Claims 1, 5 and 7 to more clearly point out the present inventive concept. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claim 7 has been amended to more clearly point out that the top most and lower most portion of the memory are associated with logical addressable portions of the memory. The language as amended is believed to overcome the Examiner's rejection and, therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection with respect to Claim 7.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Hotley*. This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

Applicant's present inventive concept, as defined by the amended claims, is directed toward a protectable memory. This memory is protected by storing in one memory location a lock word, each of the bits therein associated with a separate block of memory. The bits in the lock word are also each associated with a particular memory access operation. This can be either a READ, a WRITE or an ERASE operation. This is a memory access operation. If a particular memory access operation is to be performed, the lock bit for that operation is examined to determine if the memory access operation is to be allowed. If so, then access to that location is allowed only for that memory access operation and not for others.

The *Hotley* reference is a validation reference which provides a method for securing a memory and, upon receiving a validation order, validating access to the memory. This is facilitated through the use of a key validation operation that involves comparing key values against the bit content of lock bit

locations that are read out a bit at the time during an authentication procedure. When the lock bits are read out, and if the validation procedure compares true, than access is enabled for all operations. For each block of memory, there is provided a plurality of rows, with each row having one lock bit in the position thereof. This allows a sequence of bits to have a keyed validation code written therein. Initially, upon protecting the memory, the key validation code is written into the memory and, after the sequential lock bits are written to the full value of the key value, then a plurality of "1's" are then written into the next sequential lock bits locations, indicating that the entire key value is disposed therein. Thus, each block must have a multiple bit key value associated therewith an order to protect that block, the first bit being a logical "zero." In general, the purpose for the key validation code stored in the lock bit positions for a given block is to provide a long sequence of bits that can be compared to the purpose of enabling that block of memory before is compared, then the entire memory is enabled as if there were no protection. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion that each block will have a single bit associated therewith which will be associated with a particular memory access operation. As such, Applicant believes that *Hotley* does not anticipate or obviate Applicant's present inventive concept, as defined by the amended claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully request the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection with respect to Claims 1-7.

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt in order to place this case in condition for allowance. For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of the claims as amended. Please charge any additional fees or deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0780/CYGL-24,692 of HOWISON & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
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